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## DECEMBER MEETING.

The stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, Thursday, Dec. 14, at eleven o'clock, A.M.; the President in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the Department of State of the United States; the State of Ohio; the State of Vermont; the American Unitarian Association; the Chicago Historical Society; Dartmouth College; the Iowa State Historical Society; the New-England Loyal Publication Society; the Publishers of the "American Literary Gazette;" the Publishers of the "American Loyalist;" the Proprietors of the "Heraldic Journal;" the Publishers of the "Right Way;" the Society for promoting American Industry; John Appleton, M.D.; J. Carson Brevoort, Esq.; Henry G. Denny, Esq.; John H. Ellis, Esq.; Rev. S. Hopkins Emery; Daniel C. Gilman, Esq.; Franklin B. Hough, M.D.; Benjamin W. Johnson, Esq.; Charles W. Livermore, Esq.; Rev. Charles Lowe; John H. Sheppard, Esq.; Adjutant-General W. H. H. Terrell, of Indiana; J. Hammond Trumbull, Esq.; Mrs. Martha E. Tyson; Rev. E. M. P. Wells, D.D.; W. Elliott Woodward, Esq.; and from Messrs. Amory, J. Bigelow, Brigham, Deane, R. Frothingham, Green, Lawrence, Metcalf, C. Robbins, Sibley, and Winthrop, of the Society.

The President announced as a gift to the Society from J. Carson Brevoort, Esq., three volumes of the publications of the Bradford Club of New York; namely, a "Memorial of John Allan," printed in 1864; "The

Operations of the French Fleet under the Count de Grasse, in 1781-2," and the "Anthology of New Netherland;" both printed in 1865,—for which the thanks of the Society were directed to be given to the donor.

The President read a letter from William H. Seward, dated "Department of State, Washington, 3d November, 1865," acknowledging the receipt of his diploma certifying his election as an Honorary Member of this Society; and adding, "You will undoubtedly impute the delay in acknowledging the receipt of this honor to its right cause."

The President remarked, that a copy of a paper referred to by Mr. J. Hammond Trumbull, of Hartford, in a letter to Mr. Deane, read at the last meeting, had been received by the Society. It is entitled, "Some Considerations abo<sup>t</sup> the Act for distributing Intestate Estates.—on the Sev<sup>n</sup> appeals that are sayd to be intended to be brought concerning the same."

Voted to refer Mr. Trumbull's paper to Mr. Ellis Ames.

Mr. Evert A. Duyckinck, of New York, was elected a Corresponding Member.

The following letter from Mr. John F. Eliot was read:—

CHARLES DEANE, Esq.

No. 9, HAMILTON PLACE, BOSTON,  
Dec. 8, 1865.

DEAR SIR,—I have had in my possession, for many years, a portrait of Rev. John Eliot, D.D., one of the original members of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Where it came from, or by whom painted, is not known. I remember it more than fifty years ago, hanging in the parlor of Captain Nathaniel Goodwin, of this city (who married a sister of Dr. E.); and at his death it fell into my hands, and has so remained to the present time.

My personal recollection of Dr. Eliot is very slight, but I should say that there is a strong resemblance; yet I have always understood that his friends were never satisfied with it as a likeness. They did not think it did justice to him or his general appearance,—that he never had that dull and sleepy appearance which the picture would indicate: on the contrary, he was always cheerful and pleasant. The Doctor himself was never pleased with it.

The portrait is now at the rooms of Mr. Howorth, in Kneeland Street; and, should the Historical Society think it worthy of acceptance, it is heartily at their service; and they can take possession of it at any time. *If not*, as the doctor's family has become extinct, it is probable that it will be condemned to pass through the same ordeal as did the distinguished ancestor of the Doctor's children,—*John Rogers\* the Martyr*.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN F. ELIOT.

This letter was accompanied by one from Mary A. Greene, of East Hampton, to her cousin, John F. Eliot, in which it was proposed, if agreeable to Mr. Eliot, to present to the Historical Society "the Old Family Bible, that our grandfather," the Rev. Andrew Eliot, "preached from so many years." As this met with Mr. Eliot's approval, the Bible was accordingly presented.

*Voted*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to John F. Eliot, Esq. and to Mary A. Greene, for these valuable contributions to the cabinet of the Society.

The President referred to a valuable lot of letters which had been presented to the Society by Mr. Eliot in July last, and read a list of the writers. They were referred to the Standing Committee, for the purpose of arranging them in a suitable volume.

The President also called the attention of members to a parcel of manuscripts and printed papers, sent to the

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\* See Professor McKean's Memoir of John Eliot, D.D., vol. 1, 2d series, Historical Collections.

Society by Mr. Ticknor. These had belonged to Miss Elizabeth Belknap, recently deceased; and the most of them were once the property of Dr. Belknap, the principal founder of this Society.

The Society directed that a suitable acknowledgment be made for this gift; and that the papers be referred to the Standing Committee, with instructions to have them properly arranged in volumes.

The President read a letter, which he had received from the Misses Quincy, expressed in the following terms:—

Hon. R. C. WINTHROP, President of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

As the late Josiah Quincy did not complete his intentions, relative to his Memoir of John Quincy Adams, the Misses Quincy have purchased the plates of the work and the portrait,—from which no second edition has been struck,—and ask their acceptance by the Historical Society, at whose disposal they will be placed on their arrival from New York.

5, PARK STREET, BOSTON, Dec. 1, 1865.

*Voted*, That the thanks of this Society be presented to the daughters of our late senior member, for their valued gift of the plates of the “Life and Portrait of John Quincy Adams,” by their honored father; and that we gladly and gratefully accept the proprietorship of a work, so interesting to us all, both on account of its subject and its author.

Mr. WATERSTON presented, in the name of a friend, “A Memoir of General Louis Bell, by John Bell Bouton,” read before the New-Hampshire Historical Society, Sept. 14, 1865; a due acknowledgment for which was directed to be made.

In presenting this volume, Mr. Waterston took occa-

sion to refer to the many memorials which had been issued, and which would hereafter make their appearance, in connection with the late rebellion; and he expressed a wish that a Committee might be appointed, who, in consultation with the Librarian, should arrange all such interesting matter as should come into the possession of the Society, by itself, instead of allowing it to fall into the general mass of books which compose the library of this Society.

Agreeably to Mr. Waterston's suggestion, a committee, consisting of himself and Dr. Green, was appointed for the purpose indicated by him.

Dr. ELLIS presented a small manuscript volume, once the property of the Rev. Stephen Peabody, of Atkinson, N.H., and in his handwriting. The writing on the first leaf is as follows: "Stephen Peabody, ejus Liber, A. D. 1765. The Laws of Harvard College." There are other interesting memoranda in the volume besides that relating to Harvard College.

Dr. Ellis also presented a printed pamphlet, by A. Croswell, M.A., entitled, "A Testimony Against the Prophaness of some of the publick Disputes, on the last Commencement-Day, with letters to the Rev'd President of Harvard College, on the occasion; His Letter of Defence, and remarks upon it." Boston, 1760.

Professor PARKER read an interesting paper "On the Origin, Organization, and Influence of the Towns of New England," which elicited remarks from Mr. R. FROTHINGHAM, Dr. ELLIS, and others.\*

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\* Owing to Professor Parker's absence from the State, while this part of the volume is going through the press, the printing of this paper is deferred to the next volume. — Eds.

The Committee on the Volume of Washington Papers having lost two of its members by the death of Mr. Everett, its Chairman, and Mr. Livermore, it was voted to join Messrs. Waterston and Amory to that Committee ; Mr. Hale, one of the original members of the Committee, being its Chairman.

Messrs. Folsom and Green were appointed on the Committee for the Publication of the Proceedings, in place of Mr. Livermore, deceased, and Mr. Whitney, now absent in Europe.